

is needed now, and I urge my colleagues to support Congressman ROTH's efforts to expediently pass H.R. 2579.

SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT SAVING MEDICARE HAS BEEN POISONED BY LIBERALS

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that the liberal Democrats in Congress and the White House have chosen to demagog Medicare instead of joining with those of us on this side of the aisle in rescuing Medicare and making sure it exists well into the next century.

A good example is the gentleman from Missouri, Representative GEPHARDT, whose statement has been that it is a big lie to say Medicare is in trouble. This is what they have been saying all day today. But, Mr. Speaker, the Board of Medicare Trustees will release their annual report on the financial condition of the Medicare trust fund. It is now 2 months overdue. It is expected that the report will show Medicare is going bankrupt faster and sooner than anyone predicted.

It is a shame that any serious discussion about saving Medicare has been poisoned by narrow-minded liberals bent on scoring cheap political points.

DEMOCRATS' PROPOSAL TO SAVE MEDICARE WOULD NOT FUND TAX CUTS OR PENTAGON INCREASES

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to talk about Medicare. I am very disappointed that we still have that same old, same old when it comes to the priorities of the majority party.

When I talk to the people in my district, they think it is absolutely crazy to ask seniors to pay more for Medicare while we increase spending on the Pentagon and hand out tax cuts. Moreover, people get very concerned when they hear about the way in which the Republicans want to save Medicare.

The Republicans would allow doctors to charge whatever they want by eliminating protections on balance billing; they would allow cutting fees to doctors and hospitals through budget gimmicks; and they would force seniors into plans which restrict their choices.

It is no wonder that this Congress held more hearings on Waco and sports franchise relocation than we did on Medicare reform. In fact, there has been so much secrecy that, in my committee last year, when a group of seniors came to ask, "Please give us some answers" they were arrested.

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MEDAGOGUES

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting once again to return to the well and see the same rhetorical tactics utilized so desperately by the other side, so desperate in fact that a liberal newspaper in this town, the Washington Post, has talked about it now on two occasions.

Members may recall last year the editorial entitled "Medagogues," quoting now,

If the Medicare program won't become less generous over time, how do the Democrats propose to finance it and continue the rest of the Federal activities they espouse? That is the question. You listen in vain for a real response. It is irresponsible.

Now comes another Post editorial, entitled "Medagogues Continued," quoting again from the Washington Post,

The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare tax cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and to duck responsibility both at the same time. We think it is wrong.

Medicare is going bankrupt. That is what should scare all Americans. We have a solution. They have nothing but complaints.

REPUBLICANS AND MEDICARE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, despite what my Republican colleagues are saying this morning, in October 1995, last October, 233 House Republicans voted against a bill which contained \$90 billion in Medicare reforms over 7 years which would have extended the solvency of the Medicare Program to the year 2006. Let me just tell my colleagues that their new plan will cut \$168 billion from Medicare over a 6-year period of time, and what they will do with that by their own words is pay for a \$176 to \$180 billion tax break for the richest Americans.

Speaker GINGRICH has said that these are not cuts. He said this on Sunday on "Meet the Press." But let me inform my colleagues what his colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] the budget chairman has said in 1995. I quote: "Their budget would require Medicare cuts unlike any this town has ever seen before."

Indeed, that is what they are about. Do not be fooled, American people. Speaker GINGRICH has said in the past he wants Medicare to wither on the vine. We must not let him do it.

LET'S PROMOTE AMERICA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring a positive message here to the House this morning. I want to thank all of my colleagues for supporting travel and tourism because travel and tourism basically is a small business operation.

Mr. Speaker, since this is Small Business Week, it is a perfect time to talk about travel and tourism. Ninety-nine percent of all of travel and tourism in the United States is small business. These are people, men and women, who work day in and day out for their country and who pay the taxes that we the politicians all too often spend.

Tourism supports over 14 million jobs, as the gentlewoman from Maryland said this morning, and is the largest employer in 44 of the 50 States. Yet hardly ever is a word spoken for travel and tourism. Do you want to know why? Because the people involved in travel and tourism are at home working in the small communities throughout America day in and day out trying to raise a family, trying to keep their bills paid. They do not have a lot of time come and lobby Congress. But the small business people who really run travel and tourism run this country and make it possible for us to have the strong economy we do have.

SUPPORT TRAVEL AND TOURISM

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the travel and tourism caucus under the leadership of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH]. I just wanted to say this to America, that tourism and related travel supported 644,500 jobs. We are talking about jobs, so why do we not work harder to be sure we already have the base for these jobs. In my home State of Florida, they generated more than \$5 billion in taxes for the State and local governments and more than \$11 billion in payrolls. No wonder tourism and related travel is the largest employer in Florida, the largest employer in 44 of the 50 States and the second largest employer in the Nation. Why should we not continue very hard to push travel and tourism? Nationally, the travel and tourism industry accounts for more than 14 million jobs and an annual payroll of more than \$110 billion.

To all of my colleagues I say, Mr. Speaker, travel and tourism is America's leading export. In 1995, 44.7 million visitors generated \$76.7 billion. Please support the Travel and Tourism Caucus.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, over the last year and a half the phrase "family